

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



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December 29, 1995

Ms. Jeanne Griffin
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard (HSM-5J)
Chicago, IL 60604

**Subject: Ralston Purina
Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio
EPA ID No. OHD 004 265 302
Screening Site Inspection
Work Assignment No. 29-5JZZ, EPA Contract No. 68-W8-0084**

Dear Ms. Griffin:

Under the above-referenced work assignment, PRC Environmental Management, Inc. (PRC), has evaluated the Ralston Purina site in Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio, as a potential candidate for the National Priorities List (NPL) and has prepared this site evaluation letter to report its findings. Based on a review of available file information, PRC has concluded that the site has apparently not disposed of any hazardous wastes or substances on site. In addition, no evidence exists that indicates a release of hazardous substances to the environment from a source on site. Therefore, PRC recommends that no further Comprehensive Environmental Responsibility and Cleanup Liability Act (CERCLA) action be taken for this site at this time.

This letter provides site background information and PRC's conclusions regarding the site. The enclosure to this letter contains a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommendation form for the site.

SITE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Ralston Purina site is located at 11301 Masteller Road in Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio. During its state and EPA file review, PRC was unable to find any information about the site other than an initial pollution incident report dated March 20, 1993 (OEPA 1993). PRC contacted Steve Martin of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) Southwest District Office in an attempt to gather further information about the site; however, OEPA had little information available (PRC 1995). In addition, PRC attempted to get information from Ralston Purina, but Ralston Purina did not provide any information to PRC.

The initial pollution incident report, which was filed by numerous citizens, indicates that an oil slick apparently originating at the Ralston Purina site was discovered in Mill Creek on March 20,

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1993. Ralston Purina contacted OEPA and indicated that an employee was apparently unknowingly pumping #6 fuel oil to an outfall in Mill Creek. The incident resulted in approximately 3,200 gallons of #6 fuel oil being discharged into Mill Creek (OEPA 1993). According to OEPA, Ralston Purina hired a contractor that cleaned up the fuel oil spill to OEPA's satisfaction (PRC 1995). According to the "CERCLA Petroleum Exclusion under Sections 101(14) and 104(a)(2)" in a memorandum dated July 31, 1987, # 6 fuel oil is not eligible to be evaluated as a CERCLA hazardous waste (EPA 1987).

According to OEPA, on October 26, 1995, Ralston Purina accidentally discharged an unknown quantity of a mixture of food-grade cleaning agent and cleaning water used in its ovens. OEPA indicated that the spilled mixture was biodegradable and probably nonhazardous. The location where this spill occurred is unknown. According to OEPA, a contractor cleaned up the spill to OEPA's satisfaction (PRC 1995).

OEPA indicated that the site may be a small-quantity generator of hazardous wastes. However, OEPA indicated that this site was not a candidate for a CERCLA investigation and that it would not pursue an investigation of the site at this time (PRC 1995).

CONCLUSIONS

Ralston Purina apparently has not disposed of any hazardous waste or hazardous substances at the site. There is no evidence to indicate that this site has sources that have released hazardous constituents eligible to be evaluated under CERCLA. Therefore, PRC recommends that no further CERCLA action be taken for the Ralston Purina site at this time.

REFERENCES

- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). 1993. "Initial Pollution Incident Report for Ralston Purina." Prepared by Maue Burrow, Southwest District Office. March 20.
- PRC Environmental Management, Inc. (PRC). 1995. Record of Telephone Conversation Regarding Ralston Purina Site. Between Stacey Durley, Geologist, and Steve Martin, OEPA Southwest District Office. December 5.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 1987. Letter Regarding Scope of the Comprehensive Environmental Responsibility and Cleanup Liability Act (CERCLA) Petroleum Exclusion Under Sections 101(14) and 104(a)(2). From Francis S. Blake, General Counsel. To J. Winston Porter, Assistant Administrator for Solid Waste and Emergency Response. July 31.

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If you have any questions regarding PRC's evaluation of the site, please call Stacey Durley or me at 312/856-8700.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stacey Durley for". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name "Jack Brunner".

Jack Brunner
Project Manager

Enclosure

cc: Thomas Short, EPA Project Officer
Peggy Hendrixson, EPA Contracting Officer
Steve Martin, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Southwest District Office
Majid Chaudhry, PRC Program Manager

ENCLOSURE

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
RECOMMENDATION FORM**

(One Page)